

13. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 11, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant, by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein.

ε¹
encl. 14. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 12, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant, by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

15. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 12, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine-resistant, by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

17. (Amended) An isolated DNA which is defined in the following (a) or (b):

(a) a DNA which comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotide numbers 187 to 804 in SEQ ID NO: 3; or

ε² (b) a DNA which hybridizes to nucleotides 187 to 804 of SEQ ID NO: 3 under a stringent condition, and encodes a protein having an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-threonine-resistant, wherein the stringent condition is a condition in which washing is performed at 60°C, and at a salt concentration corresponding to 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.--

Please add the following new claims.

ε³ --22. (New) An isolated bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium

harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:

4.

23. (New) The bacterium according to claim 22, wherein said bacterium is further modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

24. (New) The bacterium according to claim 22, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein.

25. (New) The bacterium according to claim 23, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

26. (New) The bacterium according to claim 23, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

27. (New) The bacterium according to claim 11, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-

threonine-resistant by enhancing expression of a gene coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

28. (New) The bacterium according to claim 12, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant by enhancing expression of a gene coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

29. (New) The bacterium according to claim 12, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine-resistant by enhancing expression of a gene coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

30. (New) An isolated bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant, and wherein the protein is encoded by a DNA which is defined in the following (a) or (b):

(a) a DNA which comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotide numbers 187 to 804 in SEQ ID NO: 3; or

(b) a DNA which is hybridizes to nucleotides 187 to 804 of SEQ ID NO: 3 under a stringent condition, wherein the stringent condition is a condition in which washing is performed at 60°C, and at a salt concentration corresponding to 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

31. (New) The bacterium according to claim 30, wherein the bacterium is transformed with the DNA, whereby the activity of the protein is increased.

32. (New) The bacterium according to claim 31, wherein said bacterium is further modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein

Lab 747 2. L-homoserine-resistant, and which comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:

33. (New) A method for producing an amino acid, comprising:

cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 30, which has an ability to produce the amino acid, in a culture medium, to produce and accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Q3
correl. 34. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein said amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-homoserine, L-threonine, and branched chain amino acids.

35. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein said amino acid is L-homoserine.

36. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein said amino acid is L-threonine.--
